

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00492 201204Z

50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01

AF-10 A-01 SY-10 EB-11 /196 W
----- 014952

R 160920Z SEP 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 531

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0492

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJ: INTERNAL SITUATION IN IRAQ

1. DESPITE PASSAGE OF OVER 2 MONTHS SINCE ABORTIVE COUP, INTERNAL SITUATION APPEARS UNSTABLE. WIDESPREAD DISMISSALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN BUREAUCRACY AND TO LESSER EXTENT IN ARMY. MANY OF THOSE FIRED WERE CAREER PERSONNEL WHICH SUGGESTS PLACE BEING MADE TO REWARD PARTY FAITHFUL, BUT NO PATTERN HAS YET EMERGED. TWO BRIGADERS DISMISSED FROM ARMY WERE REPORTEDLY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND ASST TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS OF CONTINUING PURGE WITHIN BAATH. TWO PERSISTENT RUMORS ARE THAT BOMB WENT OFF AT PARTY HQS AND THAT PARTY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00492 201204Z

LEADER NAIM HADDAD NARROWLY ESCAPED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

2. THERE IS ALSO UNEASINESS OVER NEW ROLE OF ICP AND EFFECTIVENESS WITH WHICH ICP EXPLOITING ITS NEW RESPECTABILITY FOR PROPAGANDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSES. EVEN MORE OMINOUS FOR REGIME IS INCREASINGLY TOUGH STAND BEING TAKEN BY KURDS (SEPTELS).

3. TO ADD TO REGIME'S SHAKEN CONFIDENCE, THERE HAVE BEEN SERIES OF PARTICULARLY GRUESOME MURDERS IN MIDDLE CLASS AREAS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING RAPE AND SADISM. VICTIMS WERE WIFE OF MUSLIM LAWYER AND HER MAID IN MAY; ARMENIAN DENTIST AND FAMILY OF FOUR IN JULY; AND RETIRED POLICE MAJOR, WIFE AND 3 CHILDREN IN AUG. ONE OF MANY WILD RUMORS IS THAT MURDER GANG IS REMNANTS OF APPARATUS OF DIRGEN OF SECURITY KZAR WHICH ATTEMPTING UNDERMINE REGIME BY CREATING PANIC. IF SO, THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED FOR BAGHDAD NOW ONE OF WORLD'S BEST LIT CITIES AND EXTRA POLICE PATROLS CONTINUALLY CIRCULATING. SOME PERSONS, INCLUDING ONE USINT EMPLOYEE, HAVE TAKEN FAMILIES OUT OF CITY AND MANY NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE ORGANIZED PRIVATE GUARD SYSTEMS. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, IN HIGHLY UNUSUAL DISCLOSURE THAT CRIME EXISTS IN BAGHDAD, FED RUMOR MILL WITH SEP 8 OFFER OF 35,000 DOLLARS REWARD FOR INFO LEADING TO DETECTION OF CRIMINALS WHO COMMITTED THE THREE CRIMES WHICH FOLLOWED "CRUEL AND SADISTIC PATTERN." THESIS OF POLITICAL MOTIVE GAINING ADHERENTS BECAUSE NO THEFT INVOLVED, ALLEGEDLY SIMILAR MURDER OF JEWISH KASHKOUSH FAMILY EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND FINALLY LAST WEEK A MOROCCAN DIPLOMAT CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY SAME GROUP. DIPLOMATIC CORPS QUITE NERVOUS AND DOYEN (SWEDE) TOLD ME SEP 13 HE HAD, AFTER MANY APPROACHES, REQUESTED FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ENSURE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE WAS TOLD AUTHORITIES DOING ALL THEY CAN.

4. FOR THESE AND USUAL REASONS SECRET POLICE AND SECURITY ARE WORKING OVERTIME. ONE USINT EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN UNDER ARREST FOR A WEEK ON UNSPECIFIED SECURITY CHARGES AND ANOTHER USINT EMPLOYEE WAS PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING. PROMINENT MEMBER OF MUSLIM ANCIEN REGIME FAMILY, WHO IS MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR, WAS APPARENTLY ARRESTED BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN SEP 13. UK CITIZEN WAS PICKED UP WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION AT 0300 SEP 13 AND NOT RELEASED UNTIL 1300 AFTER QUESTIONING AND VERY THOROUGH SEARCH OF CAR.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00492 201204Z

5. COMMENT: CONTINUING INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE FOR POWER SEEMS MOST LIKELY CAUSE OF UNSETTLED INTERNAL SITUATION. HOWEVER, RAPID EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH WEST AND POLICY OF RAPPROACHMENT WITH NEIGHBORS ARE PROCEEDING AS BEFORE JUN 30, IN OIL SECTOR AT ACCELERATED PACE. THIS STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE CONTINUING UNOPPOSED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF HE AND HIS CURRENT ALLIES, WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO INCLUDE BOTH PRES BAKR AND THE

ARMY, ARE ABLE TO SALVAGE THE PARTY, RESTORE SOME MODICUM OF
PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, AND RESOLVE THE EVER-MENACING KURDISH PROBLEM.
LOWRIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CRIMES, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAGHDA00492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LOWRIE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730931/aaaaawvo.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNAL SITUATION IN IRAQ
TAGS: PINT, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005